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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW
OF
THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
WITH SOME REFLECTIONS UPON
The Reciprocity Treaty
WITH
THE UNITED STATES.
BY
R. P. SPALDING.

NOVEMBER 15, 1882.

CLEVELAND, OHIO:
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THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

The Hawaiian Islands, commonly called the Sandwich Islands, are in the North Pacific Ocean, between $18^{\circ} 50'$, and $22^{\circ} 20'$ north latitude, and distant twenty-one hundred miles, in a southwesterly direction, from San Francisco.

They are twelve in number, but only eight of them are inhabited. The largest of these last is Hawaii (written in the old maps Owhyhee), which is eighty-eight miles in length, by seventy-three miles in width. The entire superficial area of all the islands may be set down at four millions of acres; but, as very much of this is mountainous, it is supposed that no more than from one hundred thousand to one hundred and fifty thousand acres, can be used for the culture of the sugar cane, which is the staple product of the country.

Their formation is altogether volcanic, and they have, in existence, the greatest active volcano in the known world, which is upon Mauna Loa, on the Island of Hawaii, a mountain 13,600 feet above the sea.

By the census of 1878, the total population of the Hawaiian Kingdom was found to be 57,985 souls, of which 44,088 were natives. It is well known that Capt. Cook estimated the population of the Islands, in 1778, at 400,000. There can be no doubt that the natives are rapidly disappearing and foreigners, from all parts of the world, are taking their places. At the present time, there are about 2,000 native-born Americans residing on the Islands, and they form, by far, the most influential portion of the business community.

The climate, for salubrity and general equability, is unrivaled. They have no frost, and the heat is never oppressive.

Libbie Jan. 23/18.

Upon an average, the temperature is at 76° of Fahrenheit, the year round. The writer spent the winter of 1875-6 in Honolulu, and he has no recollection of a single day when he could not sit by an open window, with the flowers in full bloom, in the yard, around him. He was there, again, in May last, when the weather was warm, but, by no means, uncomfortable.

From the advent of the American Missionaries, in the year 1820, the natives of these Islands have, for the most part, been regarded as a quiet, harmless, Christian community. They, however, exhibit a marked repugnance to manual labor, and hence arises one great obstacle in the way of the production of their staple commodity, *sugar*. Very much of the labor of the Cane-field comes from China.

The Government of the Hawaiian Islands, once absolute, is now a Constitutional Monarchy:

There is a House of Nobles, appointed by the King, consisting of twenty members; and a House of Representatives, of not less than twenty-four, nor more than forty members, chosen biennially, by the people. These sit together, and are called the "Legislative Assembly."

The Cabinet consists of a Secretary of Foreign Affairs, a Secretary of Finance, and a Secretary of the Interior, all appointed by the Crown.

There is an Attorney General, also, but he is regarded, rather, as a Minister of Justice.

The Supreme Court is made up of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices, a majority of whom have always been lawyers, educated in the United States. They have District Judges, Sheriffs, etc., in all the larger Islands.

They have a Common School system, very similar to those adopted by the New England States, and it is rare to find a native youth, of twelve years and upwards, who cannot both read and write.

Honolulu, the Capital City, is situated upon the Island of Oahu, the third in point of size in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

It has a mixed population of some sixteen thousand souls. Its social *status* is equal to that of most towns, of its size, in the United States.

The Monarchy is, of course, only one in miniature, but it answers very well for the government of so simple and well disposed a race of people.

The King, who, by the way, is a very sensible and courteous gentleman, has, for his protection, a military force of sixty men, and, for his amusement, a fine band of instrumental music. He has no navy, with the exception of a single steamer, which, in years past, was used to transport passengers to and from the distant islands. He is upheld, in his sovereignty, by the consent of the great maritime powers of the earth, but he relies, chiefly, as do his intelligent subjects, upon their nearest neighbor, the United States of America, which recognized the Hawaiian Kingdom, as an independent Government, some forty years ago.

In 1875 these two Governments were drawn into intimate relationship by the adoption of a "Treaty of Commercial Reciprocity," which, in my judgment, will prove to be, in the future, as it has been in the past, a sufficient substitute for a Treaty of Annexation, without its trouble and expense.

It may be profitable to recur, for a moment, to the terms of that treaty, as individual selfishness and greed are calling, loudly, for its abrogation by Congress.

The Preamble sets forth that, "The United States of America, and his Majesty, the King of the Hawaiian Islands, equally animated by the desire to strengthen and perpetuate the friendly relations, which have heretofore, uniformly, existed between them, and to consolidate their commercial intercourse, have resolved to enter into a Convention for Commercial Reciprocity * * * and have agreed to the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

"For and in consideration of the rights and privileges granted by his Majesty, the King of the Hawaiian Islands,

“in the next succeeding article of this Convention, and as
 “an equivalent therefor, the United States of America hereby
 “agree to admit all the articles, named in the following
 “schedule, the same being the growth and manufacture, or
 “produce, of the Hawaiian Islands, into all the ports of the
 “United States, free of duty.”

SCHEDULE.

Arrow Root, Castor Oil, Bananas, Nuts; Vegetables, dried and undried, preserved and unpreserved; Hides and Skins, undressed; Rice, Pulu, Seeds, Plants, Shrubs or Trees; Muscovado, brown, and all other unrefined Sugar; meaning, hereby, the grades of Sugar heretofore commonly imported from the Hawaiian Islands, and now known in the markets of San Francisco and Portland, as “Sandwich Island Sugar;” Syrups of Sugar Cane, Melado, and Molasses; Tallow.

ARTICLE II.

For and in consideration of the rights and privileges, granted by the United States of America, in the preceding article of this convention, and as an equivalent therefor, His Majesty, the King of the Hawaiian Islands, hereby agrees to admit all the articles, named in the following schedule, the same being the growth, manufacture or produce of the United States of America, into all the ports of the Hawaiian Islands, free of duty:

SCHEDULE.

Agricultural Implements; Animals; Beef, Bacon, Pork, Ham, and all fresh, smoked or preserved Meats; Boots and Shoes; Grain, Flour, Meal and Bran; Bread and Bread-stuffs of all kinds; Bricks, Lime and Cement; Butter, Cheese, Lard and Tallow; Bullion; Coal; Cordage, Naval-stores, including Tar, Pitch, Rosin, Turpentine, raw and rectified; Copper and Composition Sheathing, Nails and Bolts; Cotton and manufactures of Cotton, bleached and unbleached, and whether or not colored, stained, painted or printed; Eggs; Fish and Oysters, and all other creatures living in the water, and the products thereof; Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables, green, dried or undried, preserved or unpreserved; Hardware; Hides, Furs, Skins and Pelts, dressed or undressed; Hoop-iron and Rivets, Nails, Spikes and Bolts, Tacks, Brads or Sprigs; Ice; Iron and Steel, and manufactures thereof; Leather; Lumber and Timber of all kinds, round, hewed, sawed and unmanufactured, in whole or in

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part; Doors, Sashes and Blinds; Machinery of all kinds, Engines and parts thereof; Oats and Hay, Paper, Stationery and Books, and all manufactures of Paper, or of Paper and Wood; Petroleum, and all Oils for lubricating or illuminating purposes; Plants, Shrubs, Trees, and Seeds; Rice; Sugar, refined or unrefined; Salt; Soap, Shooks, Staves and Headings; Wool, and manufactures of wool, other than ready-made Clothing; Wagons and Carts, for the purposes of Agriculture, or drayage; Wood, and manufactures of wood, or wood and metal, except furniture, either upholstered or carved, and Carriages; Textile manufactures, made of a combination of wool, cotton; silk, or linen, or of any two or more of them, other than when in ready-made clothing; Harness, and all manufactures of Leather; Starch; and Tobacco, whether in leaf or manufactured.

ARTICLE III.

Provides a way for proving that the goods sought to be entered duty-free, are the growth, manufacture or produce of the one country or the other.

ARTICLE IV.

* * * * * It is agreed on the part of his Hawaiian Majesty that, *so long as this treaty shall remain in force*, he will not lease, or otherwise dispose of, or create any lien upon any port, harbor, or other territory, in his dominions, or grant any special privilege or rights of use therein, *to any other power, State or government, nor make any treaty, by which any other nation shall obtain the same privileges, relative to the admission of any articles free of duty, hereby secured to the United States.*

ARTICLE V.

* * * ° The Convention shall remain in force for seven years, from the date, at which it may come into operation; and, further, until the expiration of twelve months after either of the contracting parties shall give notice to the other of its wish to terminate the same; each of the high contracting parties being at liberty to give such notice to the other at the end of the said term of seven years, or at any time thereafter.

This Treaty went into operation when sanctioned by the U. S. Congress in the year 1876. The question naturally arises, "What was the object of this Convention?" An answer may be found in the language of the Preamble:

"The United States of America and His Majesty, the King of the Hawaiian Islands, equally animated by the desire to strengthen and perpetuate the friendly relations which have heretofore uniformly existed between them and to consolidate their commercial intercourse, have resolved to enter into a Convention for COMMERCIAL RECIPROCITY."

It was supposed to be, as, in fact it has proved to be a good, substitute for a Treaty of Annexation. It was a political, rather than a financial measure on the part of the United States.

In the words of one of the most conspicuous of the American Sugar Planters, in the Hawaiian Islands, "the United States gave us the Treaty of Reciprocity instead of Annexation, and, to my mind, *the act was a wise one*. It has helped to keep alive and develop American sentiment, and has bound this Island Kingdom, the more closely, to its natural friend and protector, by the strongest of ties, *self-interest*; and, under the Treaty, the United States may justly consider herself 'the most favored nation' with all that that implies."

It so happened that the writer of this article was present at the opening of the Legislative Assembly, at Honolulu, in May last and heard the address of King Kalakaua, on that occasion.

His Majesty congratulated his subjects on the flourishing condition of the country and said, emphatically, that their present unprecedented prosperity was mainly owing to the Treaty of Reciprocity so kindly entered into by their good friends and nearest neighbors, the people of the United States, with the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The same sentiment of gratitude seemed to animate the whole business population of the Islands, with the exception, perhaps, of a few of the subjects of Queen Victoria, who betrayed, at times, a feeling of jealousy toward the United States,

on account of the paramount influence of this Government in the affairs of the Hawaiian Kingdom growing out of said Treaty.

It was somewhat difficult for me to realize, when walking through the streets of Honolulu, that I was not in my own country, so closely do they copy after the United States in every thing.

Even the Anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence is celebrated in Honolulu, with as much apparent *gusto* as in towns of a similar size in the United States.

But I wish, for a moment, to consider the political and commercial effect of this treaty upon the United States. Its beneficial effect upon the Hawaiian Islands, no one will dispute.

In 1875, the total exports from these islands amounted to no more than.....	\$ 2,089,736
In 1880, the exports were.....	4,968,445
In 1881, the exports were.....	6,838,818

The effect of the treaty has been to stimulate industry and commercial activity in all directions. In 1875, there was but one small steamboat employed in carrying freight and passengers among the different islands. Now there are eight steamers fully employed in that home navigation, together with seventeen sailing vessels running to San Francisco, all of which were built on the Pacific Coast of the United States, since the treaty went into operation. In addition to this, a line of steamers has, within the last six months, been put in motion between Honolulu and San Francisco.

Under the influence of the treaty, Railroads have been commenced; Artesian Wells have been constructed; numerous costly edifices have been erected, both stores and dwelling houses. In fine the whole country (towns and plantations) presents convincing evidence of a high state of prosperity. As to the United States, the political effect of the treaty is everything our people could desire.

As we do not seek to increase our national domain by the annexation of territory outside of the Continent of America, if we would secure for our own use, the key to the Northern Pacific, we must do so by conciliating the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Archipelago. We have done so most successfully, by the treaty of 1876.

In Article 4 it is provided that "*so long as that treaty shall remain in force*" (but no longer) the Hawaiian Government, "*will not lease or otherwise dispose of, or create any lien upon any port, harbor or other territory, in that dominion, or grant any special privilege or rights of use therein, to any other power, State or government, nor make any treaty by which any other nation shall obtain the same privileges, relative to the admission of any articles free of duty, hereby secured to the United States.*"

This important article has not yet been violated by His Hawaiian Majesty, but on the contrary, in a late treaty, concluded with the King of Portugal it is expressly provided that "*the advantages which these Islands grant to the United States, cannot be claimed by Portugal.*"

Article 2, of the Treaty of August, 1882.

The acquisition of California, in 1848, gave to the United States a coast line upon the Pacific but little inferior in extent to the Atlantic seaboard of the thirteen original States. Since then, the purchase of Alaska from Russia, has given to the "Great Republic" a preponderance of interest in the North Pacific Ocean which should be guarded with as much jealous care as our interest in the Gulf of Mexico.

It seems to be admitted that the Islands of the Hawaiian Archipelago, in the hands of such a maritime power as England, would control the commerce of the Northern Pacific, but no power on earth can gain the ascendancy over the United States, in those Islands, so long as the Reciprocity Treaty of 1876 is continued in force.

Within the last six months, the Prime Minister of the Hawaiian Kingdom has lost his place, because of his indiffer-

ence to the continuance of this Treaty. HE IS AN ENGLISHMAN.

We will now, for a moment, consider the effect of this Treaty upon the people of the United States, in a commercial point of view :

In the year 1875 the exports from the United States to the Hawaiian Islands amounted to.....\$ 947,260 42
In the year 1880 they were..... 2,528,288 00
In the year 1881 they were upwards of..... 3,000,000 00
and are constantly on the increase.

Since the Treaty went into operation, there has been paid for Machinery, in the United States, to be used, in the Islands, in the manufacture of sugar, more than four million dollars.....\$4,000,000
The people, on the American Pacific coast, have been paid for Ship-building more than..... 500,000
For Fire and Marine Insurance..... 400,000
For Brick, Lime, Cement, Nails, Hardware, Lumber, Groceries and Provisions..... 2,500,000
Other articles, the produce and manufacture of the U. States 750,000

In addition to all this, citizens of the United States, and men who will never abjure their allegiance to the American Republic, have, since this Treaty was sanctioned by Congress in 1876, invested in the culture of the sugar cane, in these Islands, and in the machinery for making sugar, at least TEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

And, now, it is boldly claimed by an honorable member of Congress from Louisiana, that the duties remitted to the sugar planters of the Hawaiian Islands, in the year 1881, amounted to \$2,919,000; the quantity of sugar imported that year, into the United States being, as he alleges, 90,000,000 lbs.; and he says further, "that eighteen firms, only, own all the "sugar-plantations of all the Islands:"

[Appendix to Cong. Record, Vol. 13, pages 29, 30 and 31.

Allowing his estimate of the quantity imported during the year 1881, to be correct, it will stand thus:

45,000 tons with remission of duty, \$50 per ton.....\$2,250,000

But, in the absence of the Treaty, we have no assurance that there would have been any such duties to remit, as the quantity received in 1875, was only about twelve thousand tons. The true amount sent into the United States, free from duty, in 1881, was 38,454 tons.

I have looked over the names of the firms, said, by the gentleman, "*to own all the plantations*," and I find the names of the leading merchants (shipping and commission merchants of Honolulu) who make advancements of money to the planters and find a market for their sugar. Among them are the firms of Brewer & Co., an old Boston house, Castle & Cook, Hackfeld & Co., and W. C. Irwin & Co.

Brewer & Co. are agents for ten different plantations, situated on four different islands.

Hackfeld & Co. are agents for twenty plantations, situated on five different islands.

W. G. Irwin & Co. are agents for thirteen different plantations, situated on three different islands.

I speak from personal knowledge when I say the Honorable Representative from Louisiana was grossly mistaken in his supposition that these firms and the others which he named, were the owners of the plantations they appeared to represent. They were simply agents for the owners. While I was at the Islands, this last spring, there was a Convention called, at Honolulu, of all the sugar planters of the Kingdom. They were a very respectable concourse of men, about sixty in number, of different nationalities, but a decided majority of them were from the United States.

The sugar producing interest in the United States, (and this means Louisiana) cannot be injured by the admission of the article, free of duty, from the Hawaiian Islands for the following reasons:

The annual consumption of sugar in the United States is...	1,008,772 tons
Of which Louisiana produces.....	136,491 "
The Hawaiian Islands produce.....	38,454 "

Leaving, still, the enormous quantity of eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand, eight hundred and twenty-seven tons, imported every year from Cuba, Porto Rico, the French West Indies, Brazil, the Spanish Possessions, and the Dutch East Indies, and for which we pay, in gold, no less than \$78,257,506.

The dullest intellect will not fail to see that the modicum, introduced from the Hawaiian Islands, can have no influence on the price of sugar in the United States.

It may serve to displace an equal amount that would otherwise be brought in from the East Indies, and, to that extent, would, doubtless, keep from the National Treasury from one to two millions of dollars. But what is that compared to the benefits accruing to our citizens from having a sure market for, from three to five millions of dollars' worth of their own manufactures, every year free from every kind of tariff, and the great national benefit of quietly and peaceably controlling the GATEWAY of the North Pacific Ocean?

From reading and personal observation, my mind is brought to the conclusion that the Hawaiian Kingdom will be upheld just so long as the Congress of the United States sees fit to foster and encourage the production of raw sugar in the Islands, by the continuance of a Treaty of Reciprocity, between the two Governments, substantially like the one now in force, formed in 1875, and carried into operation, by Congress in 1876.

Let this Treaty be totally abrogated, and England will not be true to her own history, if she does not speedily endeavor to convert the Hawaiian Islands into British Provinces.

I say "*endeavor*," because I do not believe the people of the United States will permit England, or any other European power to assert a supremacy over these Islands, though it may cost BILLIONS," instead of "MILLIONS" OF MONEY to maintain their independence.

The sugar-interest is the arterial blood of the Hawaiian people. They cannot now subsist without it, and it cannot be maintained without a *free* market like San Francisco. Impose a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents on the pound, and the most prosperous plantations will fall back into cattle-ranches; *unless*, indeed, England will favor them with a similar Treaty, and thus enable them to transfer their traffic to the marts of Australia.

R. P. SPALDING.

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